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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/981,840	10/17/2001	Phillip W. Barth	10003813-1	8468

7590 07/13/2005  
AGILENT TECHNOLOGIES, INC.  
Legal Department, DL429  
Intellectual Property Administration  
P.O. Box 7599  
Loveland, CO 80537-0599

EXAMINER

NORRIS, JEREMY C

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

2841

DATE MAILED: 07/13/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

AK

**Office Action Summary**

Application No.

09/981,840

Applicant(s)

BARTH ET AL.

Examiner

Jeremy C. Norris

Art Unit

2841

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

**Period for Reply**

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

**Status**

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 03 March 2005.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**.                      2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

**Disposition of Claims**

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-30 and 37-39 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 4-7 and 19-21 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-3, 8-18, 22-30 and 37-39 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

**Application Papers**

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 17 October 2001 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

**Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119**

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All    b) ☐ Some \*    c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- \* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

**Attachment(s)**

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 8/24/04.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. \_\_\_\_\_.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_.

## DETAILED ACTION

### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102***

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 1-3, 13-18, 27-30, 37, and 38 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by US 5,919,155 (Lattin).

Examiner notes that limitations that portions of a device are “adapted to” or “for” certain functions is not a positive limitation but only requires the ability to so perform as has been held (see *In re Hutchison*, 69 USPQ 138).

Lattin discloses, referring to figures 14-17, a flexible circuit comprising; a substrate (73) having a plane; a flexible and extensible structure (75) formed within said substrate and co-planar with said substrate; and wherein said structure is adapted to be extended out of said plane by a distance greater than a maximum lateral dimension of said structure [claim 1], further comprising an insulated pathway formed on said structure (see col. 12, lines 55-65) [claims 2, 17], wherein said pathway is a capillary for transferring a fluid (see col. 12, lines 55-65) [claims 3, 18] wherein said structure has geometric features selected from a group comprising spiral, bend, curve, twist, turn, curl, loop, u-turn and zigzag (see figure 12) [claims 13, 27], wherein said structure is defined by dashed perforations (see figure 18) (claims 14, 28), wherein said structure comprises a boss (74) for receiving a force to extend said structure out of said plane

Art Unit: 2841

[claims 15, 29], further comprising at least a first pathway (82) and a second pathway (866) [claims 16, 30], wherein said structure is adapted to be extended substantially perpendicular to said plane within the region defined by said plane [claim 37], further comprising a pathway (82) formed on said structure [claim 38],

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

The factual inquiries set forth in *Graham v. John Deere Co.*, 383 U.S. 1, 148 USPQ 459 (1966), that are applied for establishing a background for determining obviousness under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) are summarized as follows:

1. Determining the scope and contents of the prior art.
2. Ascertaining the differences between the prior art and the claims at issue.
3. Resolving the level of ordinary skill in the pertinent art.
4. Considering objective evidence present in the application indicating obviousness or nonobviousness.

This application currently names joint inventors. In considering patentability of the claims under 35 U.S.C. 103(a), the examiner presumes that the subject matter of the various claims was commonly owned at the time any inventions covered therein were made absent any evidence to the contrary. Applicant is advised of the obligation under 37 CFR 1.56 to point out the inventor and invention dates of each claim that was not commonly owned at the time a later invention was made in order for the examiner to

Art Unit: 2841

consider the applicability of 35 U.S.C. 103(c) and potential 35 U.S.C. 102(e), (f) or (g) prior art under 35 U.S.C. 103(a).

Claims 8-12, 22-26, and 39 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Lattin in view of US 5,034,688 (Moulene).

Lattin discloses the claimed invention as described above except Lattin does not specifically state that the structure is a spiral [claims 8, 22, 39]. However, Lattin does teach that the structure can be any of various shapes (see col. 17, lines 1-10). A spiral is a well known shape used in structures to deliver fluids as evidenced by Moulene (see figure 4). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention to use a spiral shaped structure in the invention of Lattin as is well known in the art. The motivation for doing so would have been to use a known shape, easy to manufacture.

Additionally, regarding claims 9-12 and 23-26, the modified invention of Lattin does not specifically disclose that the spiral comprises an Archimedes spiral, a parabolic spiral, a polygonal spiral, a square spiral, a triangular spiral, a pentagonal spiral or a hexagonal spiral. However, each one of these shapes is well known and a trivial variant of the generic "spiral" disclosed by the modified invention of Lattin. As such, one of ordinary skill in the art would be motivated to use any one of these well-known shapes as the "spiral" in the modified invention of Lattin since they are simple variants also easy to manufacture. Moreover, it has been held that more than a mere change of form is necessary for patentability. *Span-Deck, Inc v. Fab-con, Inc.* (CA 8, 1982) 215 USPQ 835.

***Allowable Subject Matter***

The indicated allowability of claims 3 and 18 is withdrawn in view of the newly discovered reference(s) to US 5,919,155 (Lattin). Rejections based on the newly cited reference(s) are as stated above.

***Response to Arguments***

Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-3, 8-18, 22-30, and 37-39 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

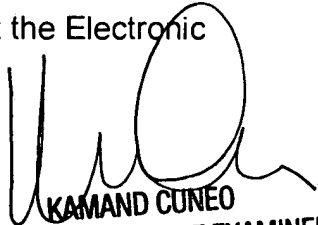
***Conclusion***

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Jeremy C. Norris whose telephone number is 571-272-1932. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Friday, 9:30 am - 5:30 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Kamand Cuneo can be reached on 571-272-1957. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

JCSN

  
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